



# **DC SPECIAL EDUCATION CO-OPERATIVE**

**Helping DC Charter Schools Develop High-Quality  
Special Education Programs**

**Testimony by Julie Camerata, Executive Director, DC Special Education Co-operative**

**DC State Board of Education Public Hearing on proposed revisions to the Accountability  
Workbook**

**March 24, 2010**

I would like to thank the Board for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the Accountability Workbook, specifically, amendment 14 which would allow DC to exercise additional flexibility for reporting the students with disabilities subgroup.

The DC Special Education Co-operative is a nonprofit that was founded and is governed by charter LEAs. Currently, 26 LEAs are Co-operative members. It is our mission to help charters to get special education right. Our members are committed to this mission.

Though the biggest concern is about serving individual students, ensuring that they make progress that is appropriate and meaningful for them, a very real concern for many charters is how their special education subgroup will affect their AYP score. When we look at the data, this concern is validated; we know that the score of the special education subgroup can and do impact an LEA's ability to make AYP. We believe that this amendment, and the ability to count exited (special education) students, will enable the tremendous work many LEAs are doing with special education to be more accurately reflected in the LEA's AYP score.

We'd like to thank the Board for considering this change in practice and sincerely hope that this amendment is enacted.